Statement-III

State-wise details of post offices in rural areas where infrastructure equipment has been provided in the last three years

Sl. No	Name of the State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	Tripura	14	9	8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5	8	2
3	Manipur	7	9	4
4	Meghalaya	5	7	8
5	Mizoram	7	5	5
6	Nagaland	4	7	4
	TOTAL:	42	45	

Ombudsman for mobile owners

2475. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring in Ombudsman for mobile owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent this would address the long-standing need for a speedy and low cost redressal mechanism and control threatening calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to appoint an ombudsman for mobile owners to redress their grievances.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Limited spectrum in a single circle

2476. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI is of the view that in view of the limited spectrum in a single circle, there should be a cap on the number of players in a circle;

(b) whether the Department of Telecom is also of the same view and the Cellular Operators Association of India, Bharti and Vodafone also support this view; and

(c) if so, the circumstances and compulsion under which 159 licences have been issued for providing access service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) On 13.04.2007, Government had sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory

Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI, after a consultation process with the stakeholders including Cellular Operators Association of India, Bharti and Vodafone, has recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access services providers in any service area. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.

(c) Given the central aim of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) to ensure rapid expansion of teledensity, Government, in the public interest in general and consumer interest in particular and for the proper conduct of telegraphs and telecommunications services, has issued these licences for access services, which has resulted in reduction in telecom tariff and unprecedented growth of telecom services due to competition.

Special incentive package for semiconductor manufacturing

2477. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given in principle approval to the special incentive package prepared by the Department of Information Technology for semiconductor manufacturing and other high-tech industries;

(b) if so, whether the parameters of this package have been announced;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) whether making bandwidth available to every Indian has to remain a priority, as it holds the key to bridging the digital divide; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Special Incentive Package Scheme to encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government *vide* Gazette Notification No. 78, Part I, Section I dated 21st March, 2007. A copy of the Notification is available on the *website* *http://www.mit.gov.in*.

(d) and (e) The Government has been able to provide state of art world-class telecom infrastructure at globally competitive tariffs and to reduce digital divide by extending connectivity to the unconnected areas.

Target set by DoP

2478. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra circle of the department of Posts has projected a turnover of Rs. 550 crore during the year 2007-08 fiscal from its various business propositions across Maharashtra and Goa;